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Company of Paden & Co



# Curios and Relics

## Campaign & Patriotic Materials

### Flags

### Used in Funeral

Excerpts from newspapers and other sources

From the files of the  
Lincoln Financial Foundation Collection

FEB. 11, 1925

THE DA

## A RELIC OF CIVIL WAR



**MISSSES MARGARET SMITH AND MARION REGAN WITH BULLET-RIDDED OLD AMERICAN FLAG.**

[By a staff photographer of The Daily News.]

ON THE eve of Abraham Lincoln's birthday anniversary, George C. Beidler, 452 Roslyn place, was exhibiting to friends a bullet-riddled, powder-burned old American flag, which draped the casket of the martyred president on its solemn journey from Washington to Springfield, Ill., where the great emancipator was buried.

For sixty years this flag has been a prized possession of Mr. Beidler's family. It was given to his father, S. Linn Beidler, deceased, former postmaster of the village of Mount Pulaski, by one of the union army generals in charge

of the funeral cortege just before the body was lowered into the grave.

Who made the flag and what vallant soldier carried it through civil war battles, where its baptism of fire gave it the honor of adorning Lincoln's casket, is not known. The flag is fourteen feet long and eight feet wide and has thirty-five stars. It will be exhibited to-morrow afternoon by Mr. Beidler at a private meeting of the Abraham Lincoln Daylight club at 820 North Clark street.

Mr. Beidler's parents both knew Lincoln. His mother, Mrs. Prudence Beidler, 84 years old, of Pulaski, Ill., recalls how Lincoln used to dangle her on his knee when she was a child.



## WHEELERS GOING EAST TO SEE MOTHER SAIL

They Will Hurry Back to  
Attend Lincoln's Birth-  
day Fete.

BY JESSIE OZIAS DONAHUE.

Mr. and Mrs. John T. Wheeler are going east in a few days and will be in New York prior to the sailing on Jan. 28 of Mrs. Wheeler's mother, Mrs. William Swissler, and her aunt, Mrs. Albert Lackman, on a cruise of the Mediterranean.

The Wheelers will be back within a few days after the sailing, as they wish to be here for the ceremony at the Chicago Historical Society on Lincoln's birthday. The occasion will have much significance for Mrs. Wheeler, as the American flag spread over the coffin at Lincoln's funeral, later covering Lincoln's bed in the Lincoln room of the society, has been carefully restored in its many worn places by her exquisite needlework and that of Mrs. Carl Medinus. Incidentally, this precious relic was in the Wheelers' apartment at 1120 Lake Shore drive overnight and both Mrs. Wheeler and Mrs. Medinus worked reverently upon it.

The Lincoln room is to be opened to the public on Feb. 12 and the flag will be hung at the head of Lincoln's bed.

Mrs. Wheeler's grandfather was an intimate friend of Abraham Lincoln, and her father was an associate of Robert Lincoln during his residence here, where they were neighbors on Washington boulevard.

CHICAGO ILL. NEWS  
WEDNESDAY, JANUARY 7, 1931.



**CITY TO OBSERVE ABRAHAM LINCOLN'S BIRTH-DAY.** Mrs. Clara Mason of 6057 Greenwood avenue looking at flag which once wrapped Lincoln's body and is now in Chicago Historical society rooms. *(Story on page 21.)*

CHICAGO ILL. TRIBUNE  
WEDNESDAY, FEBRUARY 11, 1931.





[TRIBUNE Photo.]

**CITY TO OBSERVE ABRAHAM LINCOLN'S BIRTH-DAY.** Mrs. Clara Mason of 6057 Greenwood avenue looking at flag which once wrapped Lincoln's body and is now in Chicago Historical society rooms.

**A FLAG FROM LINCOLN CASKET.**

**Colors Given Hearse Driver Now  
Draped Over Harding's Portrait**

CUMBERLAND, MD., Aug. 8.—One of the silk American flags that was used to drape the coffin of Abraham Lincoln when he lay in state in New York City is draped over a photograph of President Harding in the Liberty Trust Company here. The flag is the property of Zebulon M. Hewitt, one of the bank auditors, whose father drove the Lincoln hearse through the streets of New York in 1865.

The flag was given to the elder Hewitt after the funeral of Lincoln and has been a prized relic in the family ever since. Because of his excellent horsemanship, Hewitt's father, now dead, was chosen from more than one thousand drivers in the metropolis.



August 28, 1935

Mr. Eugene O. Fisher  
LaGrange, Indiana

My dear Mr. Fisher:

A recent visitor to our museum here has advised me that you have an old flag which was carried in the funeral procession at Springfield, Illinois, at the time Abraham Lincoln was buried and I am wondering if you would be willing to write and tell us something about this old flag.

I am wondering if you are the gentleman I met several years ago who also had an old table that came from the Lincoln home in Kentucky. If so, we would be glad to learn something further it.

Very truly yours,

LAW:LH

Director

La Grange, Indiana, August 29-1935.

Louis A. Warren, Director,  
Lincoln National Life Foundation,  
Fort Wayne, Indiana.

Dear Mr. Warren:

This acknowledges your letter of yesterday concerning the Lincoln articles that I have.

The flag was made by Mrs. Anthony Nelson. She spun the material from flax in 1836. It was carried in the political campaign of 1842 at Lima (now Howe) and also in the Lincoln campaigns.

Mr. and Mrs. Anthony Nelson were my grandparents on my mothers side.

Anthony Nelson was a boyhood friend of Lincolns and he attended Lincolns funeral and carried this same flag.

I have an affidavit of Anthony Nelson concerning the writing desk, which he purchased at a sale of the Lincoln goods in 1843. It is made of cherry wood and is still in very good condition.

These articles were given to me by my Grandmother Nelson and I have had them since 1873.

If you would care to look these articles over you can come to my home at any time suiting your convenience.

I may be in Fort Wayne in a few days and when there I will call at your museum and have a talk with you.

Very truly,

*E O Fisher*

EOF:W

E. O. Fisher.

September 5, 1935

Mr. E. O. Fisher  
LaGrange, Indiana

My dear Mr. Fisher:

I was very glad to hear from you with reference to the Lincoln material that you have in your possession and we trust if at any time you are in Fort Wayne you will call and see our Lincoln collection.

I do not know as I will be engaged at any time in the very near future and I am making a note of your collection and if the opportunity presents itself I will call at your home and see the items that you have.

Very truly yours,

LAW:LH

Director



Lincoln Relics Burbank March 17<sup>th</sup> 1936

Mr Harry E. Barker

Los Angeles

Dear Sir:

One of our friends told us that you are an authority on Lincoln relics and therefore Mrs. Switzer took yesterday the liberty to phone to your home and learned to her regret from Mrs Barker that you <sup>are</sup> ill in bed and cannot receive any visitors. Mrs. Barker suggested that we write to you regarding the pieces we own and that in this manner we might obtain your advice. - We have a very handsome black Parian vase and an old silk flag which were both on Lincoln's catafalque when his body lay in state in Chicago before burial in Springfield, Ill. Mrs Switzer's relative, Mr. John M Van Codel, an old settler of Chicago and alderman at the time was intrusted with the designing of the catafalque and its decorations; he bought two black vases personally for \$90.00 and also one of the six silk flags that were on the catafalque. Mrs Switzer inherited these objects from Mr Van Codel who was her grandfather.

We know that the vase is very valuable on account of its beauty and association.

NO. 1001  
(original or safe)

Unfortunately we have to dispose of it and would appreciate your advice as to what price we could set on it and how we could go about to sell it. The silken flag that is on account of its age in bad condition would be give free with the sale of the vase.

Any advice you could give us in this matter would be greatly appreciated by

Yours very truly  
Karl S. Switzer

1104 No Rose Str.  
Burbank

502. University Place  
Grosse Pointe. Mich.  
April First. 1937.

Mr Louis A. Warren:

Dear Mr Warren:

Some time ago I wrote you concerning the  
sale of flag that was draped on the engine  
of Lincoln's funeral train. The owner is  
very anxious to dispose of this and I write  
to ask if you would care to make an  
offer for purchase of same? If she cannot  
dispose of it in any other way - our congressman  
will try to get an appropriation through to buy  
it for the American Historical Society. But we  
must put a price on it first. Mr J. Starr  
of Detroit suggested asking you to name what  
you considered to be a fair price. Her previous  
asking price - she now realizes was too high.  
So if you could and would put a value on  
the flag - we will be extremely grateful.  
Thanking you for the trouble - I am -  
Sincerely - Sarah E. Cook



Flag  
April 7, 1937

Mrs. Sarah E. Cook  
502 University Place  
Grosse Pointe, Michigan

My dear Madam:

I regret exceedingly it will not be possible for me to appraise the Lincoln flag which you have as we have a very definite rule established here that we will not place a value on any article, in fact we are not permitted to do so.

It would be a very difficult thing for any one to place a value on the flag you have because there is no precedent establishing values of this kind. We do have many flags offered to us and upon my desk now is a letter very much like yours, but the flag of course is very much different in quality and also the context at the second Inaugural Address is somewhat different from the context of your flag. It seems to me that Mr. Forrest Sweet, 46 Green Street, Battle Creek, Michigan, who is a dealer in Lincoln curios, might be willing to appraise your item.

Very truly yours,

LAW: B

Director

8...

Rossville Ind.  
2-22-35

Dr. Louis Warren

Dear Sir,

I have a flag, which I thought you might <sup>be</sup> interested in. It was on the train that carried Abrahams Lincoln's body to Springfield Ill. It has 35 stars, eagle and diaper is in very good condition. My Father dated it 1865 and has been in the family since this date. If you would be interested in this flag, or know of any one that would please have them communicate with me.

Yours Truly

William B. Hufford  
Rossville

Bx 55

Ind.

CURIO

*flag*

February 26, 1935

Mr. William B. Hufford  
Box 55  
Rossville, Indiana

Dear Mr. Hufford:

The Lincoln flag which you own must be very interesting and I am sure has always been prized very highly by your family. In the event you wish to sell this flag, please tell us the amount you are asking for it. In event the price is reasonable, we might consider the purchase of same.

Yours very truly,

RGM:EB  
R. G. McMurtry

D librarian  
Lincoln National Life Foundation



Rossville Ind.  
Feb. 28, 1935

R. Gerald McMurtry

Dear Sir,

I would sell the flag,  
but would rather you give some idea  
of about what you, would think it would  
be worth. as I believe you are in a position  
to know its true value as to what it would  
be worth to you.

Yours Truly  
William B. Hufford  
Rossville

Box 55

Ind.

1 FLAG

Rossville Ind

LINCOLN NATIONAL  
MAIL DEPARTMENT

Referred to

REC'D JUN 30 1939

Answered

D

LIFE INSURANCE CO

Dear sir

It has bin quite a while  
since i wrote and told  
you about the flag i had  
that was on aberham  
lincoln funeral train and  
there is proof that it was  
on the train  
I dont know wheather you  
people or still intrested  
or not but would like you  
people to have it  
it was raised by good  
althorty \$2000 i would take  
500 for it i have had some  
big offers for it But  
still think you folks ought  
to have it Lincoln Life ins-  
urant Co write and tell  
me what you would do  
there or many people stop  
to see it

Yours truly and  
Respectfully

Yours

W B Spafford

Rossville Ind

Box 55

June 30, 1939

Mr. W. B. Hufford  
Box 55  
Rossville, Indiana

My dear Mr. Hufford:

Thank you for again calling our attention to the Lincoln flag which you have in your possession. I am very sure we would not care to acquire it.

Very truly yours,

LAW:BS

Director



## Perhaps a Relative's Relic



MISS NANCY HANKS

Miss Hanks is examining a cinder-scarred flag from the train that carried Lincoln's body from Baltimore to Springfield. Sparks from the engine burned up the other. This one is the property of Mrs. Nellie L. Jones, of Detroit, who received it from her grandfather, Caleb M. Lewis, once employed by Northern Central Railroad.

## Lincolniana Exhibit Reveals Detroit Has a Nancy Hanks

### Onlooker's Interest Brings Questions Which Result in Discovery of Historical Name

An exhibit of Lincolniana all this week at the Michigan Mutual Liability Co., 163 Madison Blvd., Friday attracted Miss Nancy Hanks, of 14862 Artesian Ave., whose Lincolnesque profile and family records add weight to her belief that her family is from the same line as Lincoln's mother.

A Detroitier for 18 years, Miss Hanks came to light quite by accident in connection with the Lincoln's birthday anniversary display made up from collections of Mrs. P. W. A. Fitzsimmons, Mrs. Nellie L. Jones, Thomas I. Starr,

W. J. Graves and the Detroit Historical Society.

Miss Hanks' interest in the flag from Lincoln's funeral train led attendants to ask her name and to find that one of her prized possessions is an 1899 edition of "Nancy Hanks," by Caroline Hanks Hitchcock, of Cambridge. She got it from her aunt, Clara Jane Anthony, of Buffalo, whence her branch of the family migrated to Saginaw, Mich., in 1870.

The book starts with Benjamin Hanks who migrated from England in 1699, finally establishing himself on Saguish Island in

Plymouth Harbor. One of his sons, William, great grandfather of Lincoln's mother, turned seafarer and migrated to Virginia.

From another of Benjamin's sons, the book reveals, descended Rodney Hanks, builder of the first silk mill in America, now in Henry Ford's Greenfield Village. Miss Hanks' father, George E. Hanks, a Pere Marquette superintendent of bridges and buildings for 50 years in Saginaw, descended from still another of Benjamin's sons.

Originally named Clara Mae by her mother, Miss Hanks became Nancy Hanks to her associates at an early age and the name has stuck, even in the records, for she was baptized Nancy Hanks by Dr. Merton S. Rice, of the Metropolitan Methodist Church, where she sings in the choir.

Educated at Northwestern University, Miss Hanks has been an art and music supervisor in Texas and Indiana, and from art work became interested in dental ceramics, to which she has devoted herself since she came to Detroit.





11  
1520 1/2 Line Avenue  
Shreveport, Louisiana  
January 9, 1942

Dr. Louis A. Warren  
Lincoln National Life Insurance Company  
408 Guardian Building  
Dallas, Texas

Dear Sir:

I read in our morning  
"Times" that you had spoken  
to the students at Byrd  
High School. I regret  
exceedingly, that I did not  
know you were in Shreveport,  
and phoned Mr. Teekell to  
ask if you were returning  
soon. He gave me your address





surgeon of Philadelphia, and later moved to Washington, D. C. When he retired from the practice of medicine, he accepted a position in the sixth auditor's office of the United States Post Office. These souvenirs were among his most cherished possessions.

I would like to dispose of them, and thought you might be interested in buying them. Please let me hear from you soon, as I want to write to the Postmaster at Salem, Illinois if you can not use them.

would ask you to submit  
prices at first glance.

Very truly yours  
Agnes Lippincott Shuford  
(Mrs. R. L. SHUFORD)

in Dallas.

I have two small silk American flags used in Lincoln's funeral. They are about 6x5 inches, bordered in  $\frac{3}{4}$  inch black silk, with a black crepe rosette at the top of the staff.

I have, also, a very interesting paper, in poster form. It has a two inch solid black border, with a beautiful verse about Lincoln printed on it in large black letters. This, too, was displayed in Washington.

They are authentic, as my grandparents lived there. My grandfather, Dr. Benjamin Lippincott, was a physician and



March 17, 1942

Mrs. A. L. Shuford  
1520 $\frac{1}{2}$  Line Ave.  
Shreveport, La.

My dear Mrs. Shuford:

I just arrived back in Fort Wayne after a rather extensive speaking itinerary which has kept me away from my office for nine weeks.

During this itinerary I spoke at Shreveport and wrote you with reference to the little curios you have from Fort Worth, I believe.

If you will come to some decision as to what you would care to have for them and will write us about it we will be pleased to tell you whether or not we are interested in their acquisition.

Very truly yours,

LAW:EB

Director



1520  $\frac{1}{2}$  Line Avenue  
Shreveport - Louisiana  
March 24, 1942

Dr. Louis A. Warren, Director  
Lincoln National Life Foundation  
Fort Wayne, Indiana

Dear Sir:

I realize that you will  
not be able to reach a

L



decision without seeing my  
souvenirs, and, therefore, will  
express them to you within  
the next ten days. If you  
are not interested in buying  
them, I ask that you return  
them the same way.

The poster has been folded  
for all these many years, and,  
while it is broken on the  
folds, it could be easily  
mounted on cardboard, or  
some other suitable background.  
It was displayed in some  
building in Washington, D.C.,  
and the flap were used at  
Lincoln's funeral.

Very truly yours,  
Agnes L. Shuford  
(Mrs. A. L. Shuford)

Flags

April 20, 1942

Mrs. A. L. Shuford  
1520½ Line Ave.  
Shreveport, La.

Dear Madam:

Your package containing the broadside and the flags arrived safely and we are happy indeed to see them.

They are interesting pieces, indeed, but I do not think that we would care to acquire them as the value you have placed upon them appears to be far beyond our reach.

Thanking you, nevertheless, for allowing us to see them, we are

Very truly yours,

LAW:EB

P.S. - We are returning the items insured at the same price you insured them. We hope they may reach you safely.

L.A.W.

These are very fine items and would  
pay 5.00 each for them





# An Historic Flag To Fly Atop Capitol

By Lynn Dunson  
Star-News Staff Writer

A flag which has made a long journey through time and space will fly tomorrow over the U.S. Capitol.

It will be a brief display in the breeze, but it will represent the pinnacle for the 36-star, hand-stitched banner believed to have flown from the top of the old State House Capitol in Springfield, Ill. when the body of President Abraham Lincoln lay in state there.

Mrs. Lewis Ely of Ventura, Calif., its owner, is interrupting her holiday trip to Pennsylvania to have it hoisted to the top of the Capitol.

The old flag will then be refolded, slipped back into its protective plastic bag and taken home.

**THE HISTORY** of the flag is spotty, sketchy and in some parts, unverified. Nevertheless, in pondering its story, Mrs. Ely finds it easy to take herself back to the time of the Civil War:

"Can't you just see ... I can imagine the women sitting there sewing, perhaps their tears falling on the stars. Some of them may have lost their sons or husbands in the war, you see."

The flag is made of a material only read about these days — linsey-woolsey, a wool and linen blend. The red and blue still are rich with color and only a few worn spots and the neat

little stitches betray its more than 100 years of existence.

**STRETCHING** out to 6-by-12 feet, it is supposed to be the largest 36-star banner, Mrs. Ely said.

Conducting research into the flag's past, Wayne Temple, the Illinois state archivist, became convinced that it flew over the state capitol as Lincoln lay in state.

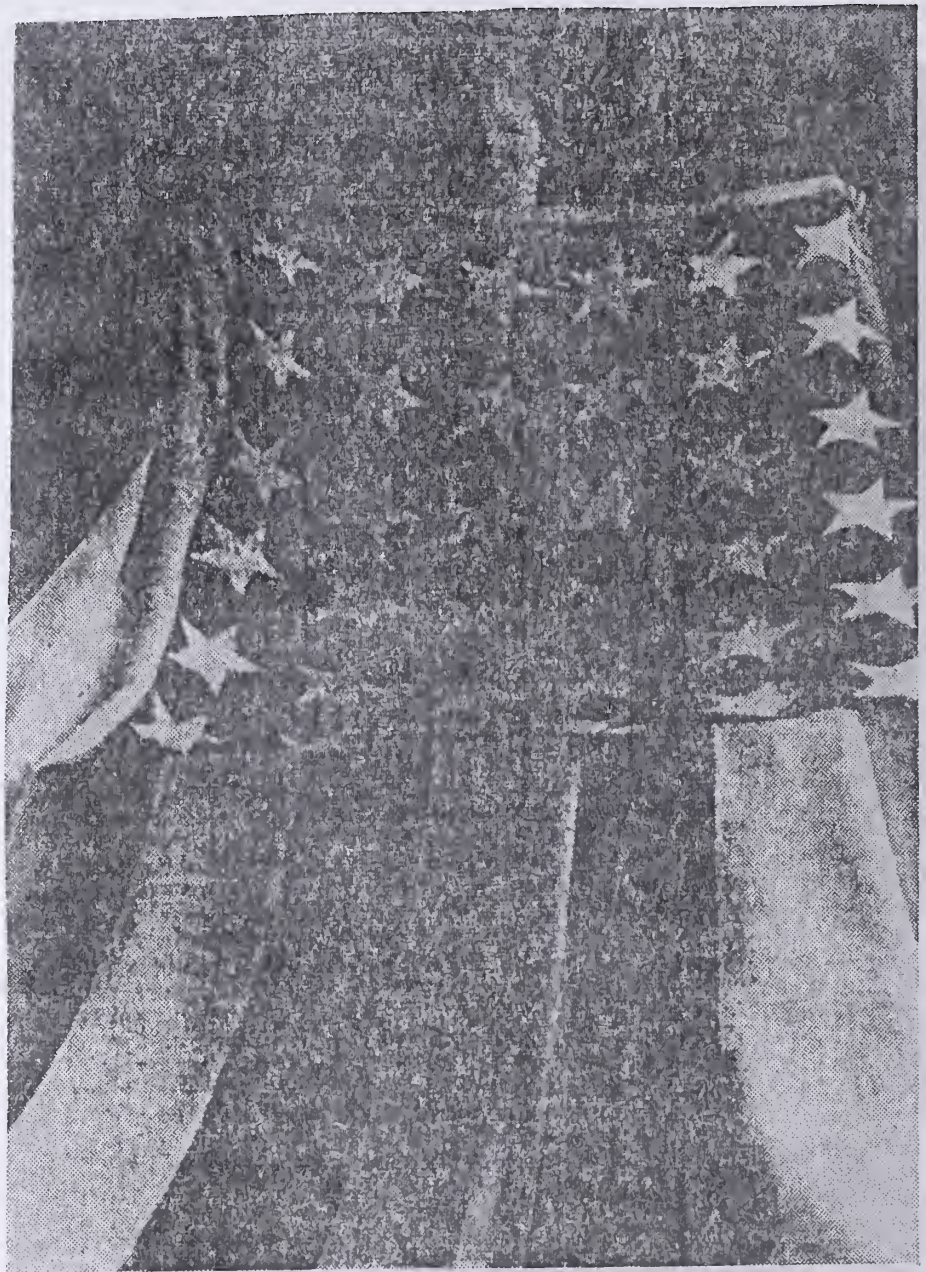
Unfortunately, state archive photographs taken at the time do not show the top of the state capitol. Photographers of the day concentrated on the flag-draped coffin.

Mrs. Ely bought the flag from the granddaughter of a former Illinois state treasurer, Edward C. Rutz.

**RUTZ** emigrated to America from Germany in 1849 and settled in Illinois, where he became involved in St. Clare County politics. He rose in local politics to serve three terms as state treasurer.

When he retired in 1883, the people of Illinois presented the flag to him and he took it with him when he moved to California in 1890. Rutz remained in that state until his death in 1907.

Mrs. Ely said she has been offered as much as \$10,000 for the flag, but she's not interested in selling it. Although she has no immediate plans for it, she observed, "It is a museum piece — it should be in a museum."



—Star-News Photographer Francis Routt

Mrs. Lewis Ely's antique American Flag, handmade of linsey-woolsey at the time of the Civil War, is believed to have flown over the Illinois state capitol while President Lincoln lay in state there, and will rise to new heights tomorrow.



## LINCOLN BIER FLAG IS FRANKLIN RELIC

Son of President's Funeral Guard  
Now Owns Sacred Banner.

FRANKLIN, Pa., June 2.—(Special.)—The American flag which covered President Abraham Lincoln's casket in Washington, as it lay in state in the nation's capitol, is owned in Franklin. It is the property now of Scott Hoffman, son of Henry W. Hoffman, who at the time of Lincoln's death was one of the guard of honor of Company K, One Hundred Fiftieth Pennsylvania Volunteers (the Bucktails). As one after another of the veterans died, the flag came into possession of the younger Hoffman.

The flag is badly worn and shows plenty of service. It was used for many funerals of veterans in the vicinity of Cooperstown.

The flag is now being put away, to be shown only on such state occasions as Memorial Day and Flag Day.



# FLAG THAT DRAPED LINCOLN COFFIN IS GIVEN TO STATE

From the Albany Bureau  
of the BUFFALO EVENING NEWS.

ALBANY, March 6.—J. Newton Fiero of Albany has presented Gov. Roosevelt with a flag which covered the caskets of Presidents Lincoln, Garfield and McKinley, and which, during the Civil war was presented by William P. Seward to Mrs. Emily Weed Barnes, mother of William Barnes, former Albany county Republican leader, through whom it now becomes the property of the state.

REED



